

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 by rewriting same to read as follows and cancel claim 2, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Thrice Amended) An audio signal processing method for performing a process for decoding supplied data, comprising the steps of:

sub-D1 } detecting whether zero data continues for a predetermined period of time in said supplied data;

Q } determining, when zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied data are compressed audio data; and

performing a decoding operation on said supplied data,

wherein when zero data continuing for said predetermined period of time is not detected, it is determined that said supplied data are non-compressed audio data, and said decoding operation is performed, and

* wherein upon detection that zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding is performed by switching said supplied data to said decoding operation based on a sync signal of said supplied data.